

## Statement from Racing NSW to 7.30, 17 October 2019

Please find the answers to your questions below.

However I would like to emphasise a few points.

Firstly I should have pointed out our audit highlighted that there are no licensed abattoirs in NSW that are allowed to process horses for meat for human consumption so no horses are sold to abattoirs .

When taking out the audit we were hampered as when we approached the NSW Food Authority on the numbers and locations of licensed knackeries, they refused to provide that information to us on confidentiality grounds, even though my Chief Vet identified himself and his affiliation. We did our own research and identified the Knackeries

To show the level of our commitment Racing NSW has purchased 10 horses from the Echuca sales to stop them from going to a Knackery.

As part of the process for the traceability of racehorses, trainers are required to lodge returns notifying Racing NSW of the location of their horses at all times. Racing NSW Stewards have prosecuted numerous trainers for failing to comply with this requirement under the Rules of Racing, in addition to prosecuting trainers for failing to lodge returns for notifying the death of a horse.

Horses which have been rehomed and left the industry for many years and which we no longer have oversight or jurisdiction over are the ones we believe maybe going to a Knackery.

This why its so important to have a national register of horses.

As another safety measure the number seller of horses in NSW which is Inglis places a high reserve so as to make it unviable for Knackeries to purchase horses,

- Can you please confirm whether two NSW knackeries, Luddenham Pet Meat and Burns Pet Foods, were part of that knackery audit? **I can confirm that the Chief Veterinary Officer provided me with a report that included both Luddenham Pet Meats and Burns Pet Foods Pty Ltd. The report included notification of an inspection conducted Burns Pet Foods facility. Racing NSW Stewards also conducted an inspection of the Luddenham Pet Meats operation in 2018 following receiving information through our intelligence networks that two thoroughbreds were at the facility. Unfortunately the two horses were no longer under our jurisdiction as one had been retired since 2006 and the other was a horse that had raced in Western Australia. The facility was advised of the requirement under the local rules that thoroughbreds domiciled in NSW were not**

**permitted to be sent to knackeries and directed by my Chairman of Stewards to contact Racing NSW if a thoroughbred was taken to the facility.**

- If not, why not? (Luddenham is a high-profile knackery, and Burns has been operating for several years)

Are you aware of any registered NSW racehorses ending up at Luddenham and Burns knackeries since October 2017? If NSW racehorses are being slaughtered at either knackery, what is your response. **Racing NSW is not aware of any NSW domiciled thoroughbred recently retired that has been taken to either facility. IF, there is evidence of these facilities destroying thoroughbred horses please provide it for Racing NSW to investigate. Horses which have been rehomed and left the industry for many years and which we no longer have oversight or jurisdiction are the ones we believe maybe going to a Knackery.**

- You discussed the interstate movement of horses during the interview. Thank you for confirming that Racing NSW does not permit owners/trainers/managers to send racehorses interstate in order to avoid LR114. We're aware that NSW racehorses are ending up at the Echuca Sales in Victoria. We've also been informed that NSW racehorses are ending up at an abattoir in Queensland. Can you please confirm whether Racing NSW is aware of this practice? If not, why not? **Racing NSW has a good rapport with the operators of the Echuca sales and has bought back more than 10 horses from the venue. In all circumstances horses were sent by non-racing participants or those not bound by the Rules of Racing. Racing NSW continues to monitor each sale at Echuca and has made numerous bids on horses to ensure they are not purchased by knackeries. Racing NSW is not aware of any horse being taken to abattoirs in Queensland. The slaughtering of horses in an abattoir (human consumption) in NSW is illegal.**

We also discussed the Camden Horse Sales (a livestock auction) during the interview. After our interview concluded, you kindly informed reporter Caro Meldrum-Hanna that this livestock auction is run by Inglis. We have since checked this information, and confirmed that the Camden Horse Sales are owned and run by Jim Hindmarsh & Co, not Inglis. We wanted to communicate and clear up this confusion, as the ABC has previously confirmed that the Camden Horse Sales run by Jim Hindmarsh & Co is not a Racing NSW-approved livestock auction due to the presence of killbuyers. With that now clarified, is Racing NSW aware of registered NSW racehorses being sold at the (unapproved) Camden Horse Sales since October 2017? **We confirm your information is correct and that the saleyard at Camden is operated by Jim Hindmarsh and Co. Prior to the interview Racing NSW was not aware that thoroughbreds were being sold at the facility as it was deemed to be an auction for livestock such as cattle and ponies. Since the interview Racing NSW has confirmed that a small number of thoroughbreds have been sold through the sale, however they did not advise that any of these**

**horses were sold to knackeries. Now that Racing NSW is aware of this venue, we have commenced working with the proprietor to ensure that no thoroughbred is sold to a knackery. Again Horses which have been rehomed and left the industry for many years and which we no longer have oversight or jurisdiction are the ones we believe may possibly be at this sale.**

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- Have Racing NSW stewards and/or integrity officers been policing or inspecting the above-mentioned Camden Horse Sales since October 2017? If so, how many times has this been done in the past 12 months? **No, as I stated Racing NSW was not aware that thoroughbreds were being sold at the facility.**
- We understand that Racing Victoria and Racing QLD opposed a move to introduce LR114 to Racing Australia's national rules of racing, despite Racing NSW and Racing ACT supporting the rule's nationalisation. Can you please confirm if this is correct? **Matters discussed at Racing Australia Board meetings are confidential accordingly I cannot answer that question as I am bound the Board confidentiality**

Do you support LR114 being nationalised by Racing Australia and do you encourage other state-based regulators to follow NSW's and ACT's lead? **Yes**

**Hoping this clarifies some of the matters and my apologies for not pointing them out at the interview.**

Peter V'Landys